

REMARKS

Claims 107 and claims 111 through 113 are presented for consideration upon entry of the instant amendment, which is respectfully requested. Claims 101 through 106, 108 through 110, and 114 through 116 are canceled without prejudice.

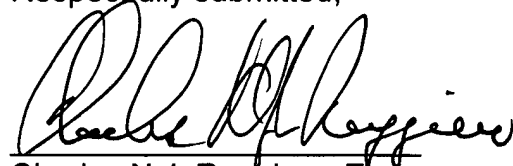
Applicants note with appreciation that claims 107 and 111 through 113 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the base and intervening claims. Claims 107, 111, and 113 are so rewritten. Claim 112 depends from claim 111. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit claims 107 and 111 through 113 are allowable.

Claims 101 through 103, 106, 108 through 110 and 114 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by International Application Publication No. WO 00/50295 to Lampert et al. (Lampert). Claim 104 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lampert. Claims 104, 105, and 116 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 1,885,442 to Holland in view of Lampert. Claim 114 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lampert in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,598,954 to Hayashi. Claim 115 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lampert in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,223,533 to Valentin. Claims 101 through 105 and 108 through 110 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,131,573 to Bent in view of Lampert. Claim 114 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,131,573 to Bent in view of Lampert as applied to claim 101 above, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,598,954 to Hayashi. Claim 115 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,131,573 to Bent in view of Lampert and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,223,533 to Valentin. Claims 101 through 106, 108 through 110, and 114 through 116 are canceled rendering the rejections thereto moot.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Such action is solicited. In the alternative, it is believed that the instant amendment places the present application in better condition for appeal. Accordingly, entry and consideration of the instant amendment are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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